



Iowa Outdoors

Iowa Department of Natural Resources
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PROJECT AWARE VOLUNTEERS RACKING UP RIVER MILES

KALONA – The roughly 30 river miles separating Iowa City and Kalona got a good cleaning over the past few days. Since Sunday, volunteers with the annual river cleanup called Project AWARE (A Watershed Awareness River Expedition) have been removing trash from the water.

The project got started on June 17, when hundreds of volunteers met at the River Junction Access Area, near Iowa City. They set out on Sunday, mounted on canoes and armed with trash bags. Charged with cleaning up the river, they have sought out tires, pop cans, plastic sacks and more while travelling along the Iowa and English rivers.

The project will continue until June 24, when it comes to a completion near the Mississippi River. Check www.iowaprojectaware.com for more information. Evening “infotainment” programs are offered every day of the project, and the public is invited to attend:

- **June 20 – County Rd. W61, Riverside (Washington County):** Black-lighting Aquatic Insects, Nature Photography, Higgins Mussel Project, Bats!

- **June 21 – Columbus Junction Fairgrounds (Louisa County):** Iowa River TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) Discussion, Aquatic Invasive, Flood of '93
- **June 22 – Wapello South End City Park (Louisa County):** Water Monitoring Activities, Iowa River Headwaters to Mouth: A Watershed Perspective, Artifacts and Artifacts: Digging for your Truth
- **June 23 – Oakville City Park (Louisa County):** Trash Totals: What We Removed and Where it Went, Water Quality, River Trips: Gear You Need and Places to Go

Since its first outing on the Maquoketa River in 2003, Project AWARE has brought volunteers to a different Iowa watershed every June. Making a public stand for water quality, the program lets everyday citizens make a difference — one stretch of river, one piece of trash at a time.

This year, in response to public demand, Project AWARE's organizers are offering an additional service. Local groups wishing to put on cleanups can apply for CLEAR (Community Leaders Enhancing Area Rivers) mini-grants worth \$1,000. Find more information at www.iowater.net.

For more information, contact Brandon Harland at (515) 281-3150 or at brandon.harland@dnr.state.ia.us.

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[electronic photos available]

AWARE VOLUNTEERS SCOUR TWO RIVERS

By Joe Wilkinson

Iowa Department of Natural Resources

Volunteers are spending the week pulling out tires, plastic, metal and other garbage, as they paddle the Iowa and English Rivers in southeast Iowa. The 150 registered Project AWARE participants are on 'working vacations' on the fourth annual Project AWARE, cleaning up the rivers and bringing awareness to Iowa's water resources and how to enjoy them.

"It is to get folks out on the water and make them aware of Iowa's water resources and the condition they are in," underscores Brandon Harland, AWARE (A Watershed Awareness River Expedition) coordinator. "Still, it's not all work. They come out to have a good time. There's a lot of fun involved; back at the camp. The AWARE flotilla camps as it goes, with evening programs ranging from water quality to fisheries research to the bats of Iowa. The 2006 AWARE trip ends Saturday, June 24 at Wapello, near the Mississippi River.

AWARE paddlers had a large pile of debris stacked at the Sturgis Ferry boat ramp, within minutes of shoving off. Included was a section of roof, most likely torn off by the April tornado which ripped through Iowa City. They also turned detective, fishing

out a moped, reported stolen a few days before...and a purse and its contents—minus the wallet—before the end of Day One. The next two days were spent scouring the English River, where debris included tires, old fencing, posts and metal. “We’ve seen everything from (pieces of) windmills, grain elevators, stoves and air conditioners,” noted Lore Baur, an Iowa City teacher, on the float for a couple days with a couple students. “We’ve seen children’s toys, trikes, just anything you can imagine.”

Some garbage is landfilled. Other items can be recycled. That includes pieces that will be worked into a sculpture for display at the Iowa State Fair. Two volunteer programs within the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) - IOWATER and the Keepers of the Land - work with numerous sponsors to organize AWARE.

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IMPROVEMENTS AT HENDRICKSON MARSH TO BEGIN IN DECEMBER

DES MOINES – The Iowa Department of Natural Resources plans to renovate Hendrickson Marsh, near Rhodes in southwest Marshall County, to make the marsh more attractive and productive to migrating waterfowl. The marsh is scheduled to begin draining in December.

The DNR will host a public meeting to discuss the plans at 7 p.m., June 28, in the Snow Bunting Lodge at Hickory Grove Park, west of Colo. The lodge is on the south side of the lake.

Hendrickson Marsh is an important area for migrating waterfowl. The habitat in the marsh has declined over the last 10 years due to introduced fish species such as: fathead minnows, carp, suckers and bullheads. These fish species feed on aquatic invertebrates while others uproot aquatic vegetation and stir lake sediments with the combined effects resulting in greatly reduced food resources for migrating waterfowl. The DNR intends to drain the marsh and kill out the rough fish.

Restoring Hendrickson Marsh to a more productive migrating waterfowl area is a joint effort between Ducks Unlimited and the Iowa DNR called the Iowa Living Lakes Initiative. The initiative has a goal of establishing a corridor of perpetually protected and productive wetland complexes from Keokuk Pool in southeastern Iowa to northern Iowa. These complexes will provide waterfowl and other migratory birds with the necessary food and habitat for migration and provide adequate nesting and brood rearing cover in targeted areas across this region.

For more information, contact Rick Trine, wildlife biologist with the DNR, at 641-752-5521.

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[Electronic photo Available]

FISHING FOR SCIENCE, FISHING FOR LIFE

TOLEDO, Iowa – Fishing as science? Vic Bjork, a 21-year veteran teacher at the Iowa Juvenile Home does just that. In 1992, Bjork used \$100 of his own money to purchase some basic supplies and began teaching *Fish Iowa!* to 12 eager students. By 1994, he had expanded his little “fishing unit” into a semester-long, accredited science course with fish and fishing as the central theme. Students learn more than fish biology and identification. They study weather patterns and water chemistry, pick up trash, and learn about life.

Over the last 13 years “Mr. B.” has shared his passion for fishing with 175 of Iowa’s most troubled youths. For his amazing contribution to fishing, and to the lives of the young people he mentored, Bjork has been named the 2006 recipient of the *Brass Bluegill Award*.

The *Brass Bluegill Award* is presented each year to an instructor who has established an outstanding local program that exemplifies the goals of *Fish Iowa!*

Bjork’s program focuses on teaching life skills. His emphasis is on preparing his students for their future – fishing is just a tool. His teaching style fosters trust, sharing, and caring – new concepts to many of his students. As one student said, “He’s always sharing sayings and stuff in class, like never giving up no matter how long it takes to catch a fish, because eventually you will catch one. If you give up, you’ll never make it, but if you keep trying you’ll get somewhere and make something of yourself.” Encouraging words for kids who often feel the odds are against them.

Bjork is planning to retire in July, but he has recruited other staff to carry on the program. He has also built a supply of fishing rods, reels, and tackle, over the years using money he raised and through donations from “people I know with equipment,” Bjork said. As part of the *Brass Bluegill Award*, the Iowa Juvenile Home with 24 spin-casting rods and reels from Pure Fishing. He may not be the instructor for the *Fish Iowa!* class next summer, but his contribution to Iowa’s youth and our natural resources will continue.

The *Brass Bluegill Award* has been co-sponsored by Pure Fishing and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources Aquatic Education Program since 1997. Pure Fishing is committed to inspiring people to go fishing and helping them learn how to fish, where to fish, and what fishing tackle to use. Pure Fishing is the parent company of Berkley, Abu Garcia, Fenwick, Red Wolf, Mitchell, Johnson, Spider, Coleman Family Fishing, and Toby. Their World Headquarters are in Spirit Lake, IA. *Fish Iowa!* strives to create safe anglers and responsible stewards of our aquatic resources.

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CATFISH, CAGED AND CATCHING'EM

By Joe Wilkinson

Iowa Department of Natural Resources

From the shoulder high grass along the rough bank along Lake Iowa, Kevin York flipped his lure into the water. He was fishing for bass at the moment. Later, after backing in their boat, it would be catfish. "We do very well," admitted York, of Ladora. "We're probably out here, two or three times a week, pretty much every week."

For a few minutes, though, he was waiting...as *next* year's catfish arrived. At the boat ramp, the last of 4,500 fingerling catfish were being transferred from a stocking truck into buckets for a short boat ride to the middle of the lake. These little cats were going into floating cages for the next three months. "It's a cooperative agreement. We provide the three to four inch fish to the county conservation departments and the counties feed them all summer long," said Department of Natural Resources fisheries biologist Paul Sleeper, as he and fisheries worker Greg Hall loaded them for their ride.

This was the last of eight counties in their district getting the caged catfish plants. At Kent Park, for instance, another 4,000 are in place. Each day now, county workers pour in pelletized feed to thousands of waiting, whiskered mouths. By late August or September, when they are released, the little cats should be 10 to 12 inches long. By the following year, they will be 13 to 15 inches, which is about when anglers start taking them home.

The catfish provide a balance in the lake ecosystem, in a body of water where they would otherwise come up short. "Catfish spawn in cavities. They swim in, lay their eggs and then guard them," explained Sleeper. "In a lot of our lakes, it's very hard to have a catfish spawn. Even if we stocked them (straight into the lake), those small fish would be very susceptible to predators. However, by the time they are released in the fall, they are out of range from most predators and they do very well."

York could testify to that as he pulls them through the year. "A lot of them are about the same size. I assume they are from the cages. Then you get three or four bigger ones, depending on how well they're biting." He doesn't keep that many, maybe a 3 or 4-pounder every other trip. It's the attraction of the lake that brings him back. "I bring the family out here. I have two little boys who like to come with me and just sit. It's pretty relaxing."

By the way, fishing at Lake Iowa--six miles south of Ladora--should be getting better. Extensive rock along the shoreline and brush poking above the water are still visible, as the 100-acre lake slowly refills. There was considerable shoreline deepening,

too. It was drawn down for the habitat work, funded by a grant through the state's fish habitat fee program.

That will give those catfish more places to hide when released...and anglers more places to find them. "The caged catfish program allows us to release larger fish and more of them," emphasized Sleeper. "We just don't have the hatchery space to raise large numbers of fish to the sizes we get out of the cages. That gets more of them into that 13 to 15 inch range the anglers want, and sooner."

Hot Weather=Hot Catfishing

Hot weather turns up the heat on catfishing, too, especially during the spawn. Anglers who target channel cats in early summer have been busy. "I've been catching them for a couple weeks now," relayed retired DNR fisheries biologist Bob Middendorf, of Solon. "When that water hits 75 degrees, they are in to spawn. They're biting before that, too, but right now you can find them on the rocks."

Middendorf heads to Coralville Reservoir when the spawn is on. He knows of some anglers who pick up catfish on the flats, on bends in the channel. He's sold on fishing slip bobbers on the rocks, though. "Just about anything (bait) works; I use minnows, but others have success with night crawlers, or shrimp. Just about anything works; as long as it's weighted and at the bottom," suggested the Old Fisherman. "I'll troll real slow, move a little bit. A lot of people like to sit still when they fish for catfish. I don't." And while he could catch catfish on Coralville all summer, he doesn't have the same success next door, at Macbride. "I don't know what it is," Middendorf admitted. "They are better at night, and people catch them real early. On Coralville, they bite all day."

Middendorf and neighbor Henry had brought back six, on the day I checked in. Some anglers might turn their backs on catfish angling. What's the attraction to Middendorf? "There were a couple (today) that went 5 or 6 pounds. Boy, when they hit, do they take off," he said smiling.

River Walleyes

Area streams have received their annual dose of walleye fingerlings in the past week. Fisheries workers released 60,000 fingerlings into the Cedar River in Johnson, Linn and Benton Counties. Another 60,000 went into the Iowa River in Iowa, Tama and Marshall Counties. The Wapsipinicon River had 30,000 stocked at spots in Linn and Jones Counties. Spawned and hatched this spring at DNR facilities, the two-inch river-strain fingerlings have far better survival prospects, than if released as just hatched fry.

Meanwhile, Coralville Reservoir and Lake Macbride received an extra stocking. Each lake received 40,000 more fingerlings from 'leftover' stock. The two waters had earlier received their regular spring stocking.

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FISH KILL AT LAKE PANORAMA DUE TO NATURAL CAUSES

PANORA – Thousands of 4 to 5-inch yellow bass died at Lake Panorama over the weekend, caused by a virus common to the species when the population increases to certain levels. The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) environmental services office from Atlantic investigated the fish kill Monday.

“We have seen this at Panorama in the past and periodically at other lakes around the state with high densities of yellow bass,” said Marion Conover, chief of the Iowa DNR’s fisheries bureau. “This is nature’s way of trying to keep the yellow bass population in balance.”

Yellow bass and other fish species caught from Lake Panorama are safe to keep. As with all meat, poultry, game and fish, proper handling and cooking is necessary for food safety.

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GARLIC MUSTARD IMPACTING IOWA WOODLOTS

DES MOINES—The garlic mustard plant, a native of Europe, is currently considered one of the most serious invaders threatening Iowa woodlands, according to state forestry officials.

“Garlic mustard has been found in nearly two-thirds of Iowa counties and I have even seen it in the front and backyards of Des Moines neighborhoods,” said John Walkowiak, chief of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources forestry bureau.

Natural resource professionals are concerned because garlic mustard is commonly found along shady drainages and trails and spreads easily by people and animals.

Garlic mustard appears similar to ground ivy and is made up of basal leaves. Plants that survive into their second year grow to height of 18 to 24 inches tall with a white flower in the shape of a cross. Later as the plant matures – its pepper-like seeds are easily spread by animals and unaware hikers and outdoor recreational users.

Native plants are no competition for the garlic mustard. The garlic mustard plants create a monoculture dominating available light, soil moisture and nutrients, making it rare to see native plants growing among it. When garlic mustard is found and abundant, the entire habitat suitability for native insects, birds and animals is altered.

A few options to control and manage this invasive are available such as pulling and burning the plant, cutting the plant at ground level to prevent seed production and the use of approved herbicides. Biological control agents are currently being researched, but there have been no natural enemies to the garlic mustard found in North America.

For more information about garlic mustard and other invasive plants of concern to Iowa, go to www.iowadnr.com/forestry/invasive.html.

For more information, contact Walkowiak at (515) 242-5966 or visit www.iowadnr.com/forestry/.

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DISEASES AND INSECTS ACTIVE ON IOWA'S TREES

AMES - Although the drought conditions are grabbing headlines as it relates to crops and other plants – several diseases and insects are visible on trees across the state according to forestry officials.

“With our mild winter, early cool and wet spring and now with hot, humid and dry conditions, tree owners are seeing a variety of tree diseases and even insect problems,” said Aron Flickinger, forest health forester with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

“This year our sycamores, white oaks and others have suffered from a non life threatening fungus known as anthracnose, that causes brown blotches on leaves and premature leaf drop,” Flickinger said. “In addition, another two funguses, fire blight and apple scab, have been reported across the state on flowering pears and crabapples.”

Flickinger said if tree owners have problems to consider using the services of the Plant Disease Clinic in Ames. “Although their main focus is for disease problems, they do have entomologists who can help with insect questions. This lab has different tools for analyzing problems that occur on Iowa plants throughout the year,” Flickinger said.

To find out more information about problems your plants may be having right now visit the Plant Disease Clinic web site at www.extension.iastate.edu/Pages/plantpath/pdcintro.html.

Reference materials can be found for the most common problems being submitted to the ISU Plant Disease Clinic this past week by visiting the following web sites.

- Anthracnose on oak and maple (<http://www.ipm.iastate.edu/ipm/hortnews/2006/5-24/oakanthrachnose.html>)

- Apple scab on crabapple (<http://www.ipm.iastate.edu/ipm/hortnews/2004/8-27-2004/scab.html>)
- Fire blight on pear, apple, and crabapple (<http://www.ipm.iastate.edu/ipm/hortnews/node/10>)
- Hickory petiole gall (<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/Publications/IC417.pdf>)
- Maple spindle gall
- Mite injury on spruce (<http://www.ipm.iastate.edu/ipm/hortnews/1995/8-11-1995/spider.html>)

For more information, contact Flickinger at 515-233-1161 or by email at aron.flickinger@dnr.state.ia.us or contact John Walkowiak, DNR forestry bureau chief at 515-242-5966 or by email at john.walkowiak@dnr.state.ia.us

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IOWA FISHING REPORT

For the week of June 20, 2006

www.iowadnr.com

For current information on fishing conditions for your lake or area, contact the office in that district. Phone numbers are listed with each district report.

Southeast

Mississippi River Pools 16 to 19: The water temperature at Lock and Dam 16 (Muscatine) is 72 degrees and the river pool stage for Pool 16 is 11.37 feet. Water levels are expected to remain stable over the next several days. Fishing has been fair to slow on **Pools 16 to 19.**

Walleye fishing continues to be fair on the wing dams on crankbaits and live bait rigs. Anglers are catching a few walleyes outside Sunset Marina and where the Rock River flows into the Mississippi on **Pool 16**. White bass fishing has been slow. Channel catfishing has been fair. Some catfish are still spawning and males, especially, can be found close to the riverbank among rocks or drift piles. On **Pool 16**, channel catfish are being caught below **Lock and Dam 15** around the mouth of Sylvan Slough and below the Arsenal Dam. Channel catfish can also be found around drift piles, in the backwaters, and the mouths of tributary rivers and streams on shad guts, cut shad, night crawlers, dip baits and shrimp. Catfishing continues to be best in the tributary rivers such as the Iowa and the Rock. Flathead catfish are being caught in the deeper holes throughout the Mississippi River, in the tailwater areas and below the emergency spillways of the navigation dams. Fishing for channel and flathead catfish has been best in the evening, night and early morning. Fishing has been fair for largemouth bass in accessible backwaters on artificial baits and live bait rigs. Bluegill fishing has been fair to good in the backwaters and below the emergency spillways. For backwaters try Credit Island and

Sunset Marina in **Pool 16**, Big Timber area in **Pool 17**, Huron Island in **Pool 18** and Lake Odessa in **Pools 17/18**. Try for crappies around fallen trees and stumps in the backwaters. Anglers have been doing fair on crappie in Huron Island and Credit Island. These backwaters are also producing good numbers of channel catfish

Lake Odessa (Louisa): The bluegills are finishing nesting and are moving to their summer areas. The summer draw-down continues so be aware when boating. Catfishing has been fair to good on chicken liver and minnows.

Lake Darling (Washington): Water temperature is in the upper 70s and the low 80s. Look for catfish nesting around the riprap. The flatheads are nesting in the culverts and culvert piles in the lake so try in those areas for a chance to hook into a big fish. Bluegills and bass are finishing their spawning activities with a few bluegills still found on the beds.

Lake Geode (Henry): Bluegills are moving from the spawning beds to the edge of the weed lines in 8 feet of water. Anglers are still catching nice fish out just a little deeper. For crappies, try trolling at the upper end of the lake by the beach along the old creek channel.

Lake Belva Deer (Keokuk): The bluegills and redears have finished spawning and have headed for deeper water. Use small jigs tipped with worm or wax worms in 10 to 12 feet of water.

Lake Rathbun (Appanoose): Crappies have been hitting on small jigs tipped with a minnow around brush piles in 20 feet of water. Walleyes have been hitting on night crawlers being trolled or drifted. Channel catfish have been hitting on liver and night crawlers.

Lake Sugema (Van Buren): Bluegills and crappies have been hitting on small jigs tipped with a wax worm. Largemouth bass have been hitting on a variety of artificial lures with buzzbaits being productive in the early morning and evening hours. Walleyes have been hitting jigs tipped with minnows and crankbaits.

Lake Wapello (Davis): Largemouth bass have been hitting buzzbaits in the early mornings. Bluegills have been biting on chunks of night crawlers drifted in deeper water.

Lake Miami (Monroe): Largemouth bass have been hitting a variety of artificial lures. Spinner baits and crankbaits have been the most productive. Channel catfish have been biting on liver.

Lake Macbride (Johnson): The bluegills are biting. What they lack in size, they should make up for in numbers. Use small worms around the rocks or downed trees. Some largemouth and spotted bass can also be caught around the shallow cover or deeper structure.

Diamond Lake (Poweshiek): Bluegills are still being caught but the spawn has tapered off. The channel catfish are starting to bite and the fishing should continue to improve and move in shallow. Largemouth bass are hitting on a variety of artificial lures.

Pleasant Creek (Linn): Largemouth bass are being caught around the dam and rock jetties. Plastic worms and crankbaits have been working best. Remember the 18-inch size limit. White bass have also been biting on small crankbaits and on top-waters towards evening. Walleye anglers trolling crankbaits have caught some nice sized fish.

Kent Lake (Johnson): Bluegills and largemouth bass are being caught here. Try small worms in the shallows for bluegills and plastics or crankbaits around the wood and rocks for bass. Channel catfish are also starting to bite, with best results early and late.

Coralville Reservoir (Johnson): Channel catfish are along the rock banks and fairly willing to bite. Use live bait for best results. White bass can also be caught on jigs and small crankbaits. These can also be found around the rock bluffs and down at the Reservoir dam.

For more information on fishing in southeast Iowa, call the regional office in Brighton at 319-694-2430.

Northeast

Mississippi River Pools 9 to 15: Water levels on the Mississippi River are reaching normal summer levels and projected to remain steady or drop slightly during the next week. Water clarity is excellent and main channel water temperature has risen steadily to 77 degrees as of Monday. River stages are 8.3 feet at Lansing, 6.0 feet at Guttenberg, 8.3 feet in Dubuque and 6.0 feet at Bellevue. Fishing continues to be outstanding.

Bluegills are moving off their spawning beds in the backwater areas in **Pools 9 to 15** and heading towards areas with slight current. Bluegills are being caught on a piece of night crawler floated under a bobber in the shallow areas along the shoreline or a small jig fished onto the spawning bed. The *pocket* areas at the Lynxville (**Lock and Dam 9**) and Guttenberg (**Lock and Dam 10**) have been outstanding spots for bluegill. In addition, the wing dam areas near the shore have been excellent producers. To catch the last bluegills still on spawning nests, try backwater areas such as Black Hawk Park (**Pool 9**), Bussey Lake and the Sny Magill complex (**Pool 10**) and Swift Slough (**Pool 11**).

Freshwater drum (sheephead) fishing is excellent in **Pools 9 to 15**. These fish are being caught in the tailwater areas and along the main channel by fishing a night crawler on the bottom.

Walleye fishing has been good in **Pools 9 to 11** and hit or miss in **Pools 12 to 15** with many different weather fronts moving through the area. There can be a one to two day lull in the walleye fishing after a weather front moves through. When biting, walleye fishing has been good to excellent. Anchor above the wing dams and cast crankbaits or jigs over the top of the dam and work it back to the boat. Try trolling crankbaits near the closing dams for actively feeding walleye. Three-ways with floaters or spinners tipped with half of a night crawler or a leech also are effective.

Largemouth bass fishing has been good to excellent throughout **Pools 12 to 15** using a variety of baits and lures including shad and crawfish imitating crankbaits, spinner baits and soft plastics. The key is to focus on structure. Look for areas with rock, wood or vegetation or try to find spots with a combination of these. For example, a snag along a rip rapped shoreline or a stump next to vegetation are good bass hangouts. Or try throwing spinner baits along the weed edges for hungry bass.

Smallmouth bass are being caught along rocky shorelines with current and associated along wing dams in **Pools 12 to 15**.

Fishing has picked up for channel catfish on night crawlers and stink baits fished along the upper sides of snags in deeper water in **Pools 9 to 15**. Channel catfish can also be caught along rocky shorelines floating a night crawler under a bobber.

Many other fish species are being caught and will continue to provide excellent localized fishing. These fish include rock bass, white bass and flathead catfish. All these species are predaceous fish eaters and will hit on a variety of jigs and spinners.

Cedar River (Black Hawk): The river is in good condition for anglers. Crappie fishing is good on jigs fished along the rocks below the dams. Channel catfish are hitting chicken liver.

Wapsipinicon River (Buchanan): Channel catfishing is good on night crawlers or chicken liver fished on the bottom.

Maquoketa River (Delaware): Fishing is good for channel catfish using night crawlers or chicken liver.

Brinker Lake (Black Hawk): Crappie fishing is fair suspending a minnow or jig in 12 feet of water. Fish close to structure for best results.

Casey Lake (Tama): Anglers are catching 8-inch bluegills in the shallow water using a piece of night crawler and other small baits. Largemouth bass are hitting rubber worms. As a reminder to anglers, there is an 18-inch minimum size limit on bass in this lake.

Fontana Lake (Buchanan): Fishing is excellent for bluegills and green sunfish using a worm suspended under a bobber. Largemouth bass are working the shorelines and hitting worms.

George Wyth Lake (Black Hawk): Channel catfish are biting on night crawlers and chicken liver fished around snags.

Lake Hendricks (Howard): Hendricks is in excellent condition for fishing. Largemouth bass are hitting night crawlers fished close to the bottom under a bobber and on crankbaits. Bluegill fishing is excellent on worms fished under a bobber. Crappies are hitting little twisters. Fishing for channel catfish is good to excellent on night crawlers and chicken liver fished next to rocky structure.

Lake Meyer (Winneshiek): Bluegill fishing is good on a piece of night crawler fished under a bobber in the warmer water close to shore. Crappie fishing is fair to good on minnows, with larger crappies being caught in the deeper water next to structure. A few channel catfish are being caught on night crawlers.

Plainfield Lake (Bremer): Bluegill fishing is good drifting night crawlers in the main lake.

Trout fishing excellent and stream conditions are good to excellent. Stocking information for specific streams can be found on the web by going through the DNR web site at www.iowadnr.com or directly to <http://www.iowadnr.com/fish/news/stockrep/groupstock.pdf>. Anglers may also call the recorded trout stocking information hotline at 563-927-5736.

For information on fishing in northeast Iowa, call the regional office in Manchester at 563-927-3276.

Northwest

Spirit Lake (Dickinson): Walleye fishing has been productive on spinner and night crawler combinations in 18 to 21 feet of water. Anchoring with a slip bobber or drifting with a leech has been productive for walleye on the east side of the lake. Shore angling in the morning has also produced some nice walleye ranging from 13 to 17 inches. Largemouth bass can be caught at the North Grade with leeches under a slip bobber and around Hale's Slough along and within the bulrushes. Try using spinner baits. A few bluegills are being caught at Hale's Slough along and within the bulrushes using 1/32nd ounce jigs. A few yellow perch are being caught at Hale's Slough along and

within the bulrushes using 1/32nd ounce jigs. Black crappies are biting at the North Grade on small jigs.

West Okoboji Lake (Dickinson): Walleyes are being caught trolling crankbaits at night. Drifting along weed lines in 18 to 23 feet of water with a leech has also produced some walleye. Smallmouth bass have been biting at Fort Dodge and Gull Points on crawfish and artificial baits. Bluegills are being caught along the docks in Hayward's Bay, Emerson Bay, Miller's Bay and Atwell's Point with small jigs. Anglers should also fish emerging weed lines with leeches to find quality bluegills.

East Okoboji Lake (Dickinson): Freshwater drum can be caught at the spillway along with some bullheads. White bass can be caught along the trestle using minnows and white twisters. A few panfish can be caught along the weeds and docks using small jigs tipped with live bait. A few large perch have moved into the spillway area. Channel catfish are being caught on the north end using cut bait or stink bait.

Silver Lake (Dickinson): Walleye have biting on spinner rigs with night crawlers and leeches. Trolling crankbaits has also been effective for walleyes. Anglers are catching some small bullheads.

Willow Creek (Osceola): Largemouth bass can be caught using night crawlers and soft plastics. Bluegills and pumpkinseeds can be caught in shallow with small artificial lures or small jigs tipped with a piece of night crawler. Channel catfish can be caught using traditional catfish baits.

Silver Lake (Palo Alto): Bullhead fishing has been good with night crawlers. A few yellow perch and crappies are being caught.

Brushy Creek (Webster): Lots of small walleyes are being caught. Some nice bluegills, crappies and yellow perch have been biting. Best bait to use is a leech. Try for big bluegills in 10 to 15 feet of water, fishing just a foot off of the bottom.

Black Hawk Lake (Sac): Fishing is fair to good for walleyes trolling spinner rigs tipped with leeches or night crawlers. Channel catfish have been good on stink bait or night crawlers. Early morning or late afternoon has been the best time.

Storm Lake (Buena Vista): Channel catfish is good on stink bait, night crawlers and cut bait. Walleye fishing is fair to good trolling crankbaits. Remember that there is a 15-inch minimum length limit on walleyes and only one fish over 22 inches. A few white bass are being caught on crankbaits while fishing for walleye.

Crawford Creek (Ida): Bluegill fishing is fair to good drifting small jigs or ice jigs tipped with a night crawler. Fish are suspended about 5 to 8 feet deep. Crawford Creek Lake is 2 to 3 feet low due to lack of rain but the boat ramp is still functional.

Arrowhead Lake (Sac): Fishing is good for 7 ½ to 8-inch bluegills drifting a small jig tipped with a night crawler or wax worm. Bluegills are suspended about 3 to 8 feet deep. Only electric motors are allowed at Arrowhead.

Clear Lake (Cerro Gordo): Walleye fishing has been good. Fish are being caught trolling crankbaits or using live bait around the reefs. Remember that Clear Lake has a 14-inch minimum length limit. White bass are being caught while trolling for walleye. Bullhead fishing is good at the Ventura Grade and Ventura Access. Fish night crawlers on the bottom for the bullheads. Channel catfish are hitting on night crawlers and chicken liver in the mornings and evenings.

Rice Lake (Winnebago): Bullhead fishing is good using night crawlers on the bottom.

Beeds Lake (Franklin): Largemouth bass are being caught throwing spinner baits and plastics along the shorelines. Bluegill fishing is good using wax worms. The bluegills are on their spawning beds near shore. Crappies are being caught trolling small jigs in 6 to 10 feet of water. Channel catfish are hitting on night crawlers and stink bait along the south shoreline.

Crystal Lake (Hancock): Anglers are catching good numbers of bullheads on night crawlers. Channel catfish are hitting on chicken liver and prepared stink bait.

East Fork Des Moines River (Kossuth): Channel catfish are excellent using cut bait and worms near the snags.

Lake Cornelia (Wright): Channel catfish are excellent using chicken liver and night crawlers. Fish for catfish in the evenings, on the north shoreline for the best action. Bullheads are hitting night crawlers fished on the bottom. Some walleyes are being caught trolling crankbaits. Largemouth bass fishing is good using spinner baits and crankbaits.

For more information on fishing in northwest Iowa, call the regional office in Spirit Lake at 712-336-1840.

Southwest

Don Williams (Boone): Fishing is good for crappies on minnows. Bluegill fishing has been good using night crawlers. Channel catfish are being caught using chicken liver. Largemouth bass fishing has been good including fish over 15 inches.

Hickory Grove (Story): Crappie fishing has been good with worms and minnows. Bluegill fishing has been good with worms. Largemouth bass fishing has been good, particularly around the rockier areas.

Big Creek (Polk): Crappie fishing has been good using jigs and minnows with the better areas offshore in deeper water. Anglers reported catching smaller walleye with jigs and minnows. Bluegill fishing has been good using worms on plain hooks with some nice-sized fish being caught. Channel catfish fishing is good.

Easter Lake (Polk): Fishing is good for crappies using jigs and minnows. Bluegill fishing is good using night crawlers and bobbers. Largemouth bass fishing is fair along the rocky areas. Channel catfish fishing has been good with night crawlers.

Saylorville Lake (Polk): Crappie fishing has been good, particularly in the Marina area. Shallow water coves have also produced some nice crappie fishing.

Below Saylorville Dam (Polk): Walleye fishing has been good in the river using twister tails, leaches, minnows and jigs. White bass/wiper fishing has been fair using jigs and/or minnows.

Below Scott Street Dam (Polk): White bass fishing has been good.

Rock Creek (Jasper): Crappies are good on jigs and minnows in the deeper water. Bluegill fishing has been good using night crawlers fishing from 3 to 5 feet deep from shore and from boats. Channel catfish fishing is good with cut bait and chicken liver.

Red Rock (Marion): Crappie and white bass fishing has been good in the Whitebreast area and along the dam. Channel catfish fishing has been fair using cut baits and liver.

Below Lake Red Rock (Marion): White bass fishing has been excellent with jigs in the tailwater area. Channel catfish fishing has been fair using cut baits and liver.

Roberts Creek (Marion): Crappie fishing has been good using jigs and minnows. Bluegill fishing has been fair.

Lake Ahquabi (Warren): Bluegill and redear sunfish fishing has been good, with some nice sized fish reported in the harvest. Largemouth bass fishing has been good, although most of the fish caught are below the legal length limit. Channel catfish fishing has been fair with worms or stink baits.

Hooper Lake (Warren): Bluegill fishing has been good with small jigs and night crawlers. Largemouth bass fishing is best along the rocky dam area with crankbaits. Channel catfish fishing has been fair with worms or stink baits.

Contact: Dick McWilliams (515) 432-2823, Ext.108, for information on the above area lakes. For more information on general fishing in southwest Iowa, call the SW Regional Office in Lewis at 712-769-2587.

Green Valley (Union): Some crappie can be caught from the stake beds using jigs and minnows. Some bluegill can be caught from the structure using jigs and night crawlers. Bullheads are biting on night crawlers. Channel catfish are biting on night crawlers or liver.

Three Mile (Union): Channel catfish fishing is good using night crawlers or liver. Some walleye are being caught on leeches and night crawlers from the mounds and steep drop-offs. Largemouth bass fishing around the flooded trees is good. Some crappie can be caught from the mid-lake coves.

Icaria (Adams): Fishing is good for small to mid-sized fish of all species. Channel catfish up to 2 ½ pounds can be caught with night crawlers. The small walleye and mid-sized bullheads are biting well on night crawlers.

Binder Reservoir (Adams): Channel catfish up to 2 ½ pounds can be caught on night crawlers. Some 10 to 14-inch largemouth bass can be caught near structure.

Little River (Decatur): Anglers are catching some walleyes trolling night crawlers or leeches along the points. The channel catfish are biting on night crawlers and liver.

Three Fires (Taylor): Several 2-pound channel catfish are being caught using night crawlers or liver. The mid-sized bluegill, crappie and largemouth bass are biting well.

Contact: Gary Sobotka (641) 464-3108 for information on the above area lakes. For more information on general fishing in southwest Iowa, call the SW Regional Office in Lewis at 712-769-2587.

Orient (Adair): Fishing is fair for 2 to 3-pound channel catfish. Crappies are slow along the shoreline using minnows with a bobber. Bluegills are good using night crawlers with bobber and small jigs.

Greenfield (Adair): Bluegill fishing is fair using jigs tipped with night crawlers and fishing the structure or drifting. Bluegills from 7 to 8 inches are common. Channel catfish are also good using cut bait and night crawlers.

Nodaway (Adair): Crappie fishing is fair using jigs and minnows. Channel catfish are being caught on night crawlers in shallow areas. Greenfield and Nodaway have low water levels. Shore anglers best fishing would be off the dam.

Meadow (Adair): Largemouth bass are being caught around brush piles. Bluegills are good using jigs over sunken trees. Crappies are fair around sunken trees using minnows.

Morman Trail (Adair): Fishing is slow for bluegills on rocked shoreline along south side of lake. Channel catfish is good using dead minnows, liver or night crawlers.

Littlefield (Audubon): Bluegill fishing is slow, but a few are being caught by drift fishing with night crawlers. Crappie fishing is fair drifting minnows. A few channel catfish are being caught using night crawlers or cut bait.

Anita (Cass): The lake is still 5 feet low and has limited shoreline access. The south boat ramp can be used with a small (14 foot) boat. The lake contains a good fish population and fishing should be good. Fishing for 12 to 15-inch largemouth bass has been good.

Manawa (Pottawattamie): Largemouth bass fishing is fair using plastic baits with a slow retrieve in canals and around Boy Scout Island. Fishing for wipers is slow with a few being caught on east shore by the outlet tube using white twister tails. Walleyes are slow drifting night crawlers or leeches close to rock shorelines. Channel catfish fishing is good with shrimp or cut bait close to shore around rocks. Fish in the 2 to 8-pound range are common. Bluegill fishing is fair using night crawlers or wax worms on a bobber in canals and around the boat docks.

DeSoto Bend (Harrison): Crappie fishing is fair using jigs and minnows around sunken trees. Channel catfish is good in shallow areas using night crawlers or cut bait. Freshwater drum are being caught on east shoreline using night crawlers on the bottom.

Prairie Rose (Shelby): Crappies are fair along rocky shorelines using jigs. Channel catfish fishing is good on liver and prepared baits in shallow bays. Largemouth bass, from 3 to 5 pounds, are being caught on rocky points using night crawlers. Bluegills have slowed, but a few are being caught drifting jigs tipped with night crawlers.

Willow (Harrison): Crappie fishing is slow. A few are being caught using a minnow and bobber in 8 to 10 feet of water. The bluegills being caught are 7 to 8 inches. A few channel catfish are being caught using cut bait in shallow coves.

Farm Ponds: Fishing is good for bluegills, using jigs tipped with night crawlers. Largemouth bass fishing is also good.

Contact: **Chris Larson (712) 769-2587 for information on the above area lakes. For more information on general fishing in southwest Iowa, call the SW Regional Office in Lewis at 712-769-2587.**

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